

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03847 151026Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 AGR-10 COME-00 /086 W

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R 150927Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4655

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 3847

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAID, IN

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON TITLE I ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

1. THE MARCH 14 ISSUE OF THE HINDU CARRIED A LENGTHY
PIECE BY G.K. REDDY DEALING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WITH
U.S. TITLE I ASSISTANCE TO INDIA. THIS IS THE FIRST
NEWSPAPER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE IN RECENT WEEKS.
EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

2. "THE LATEST IRRITANTS IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS
ARE AN ATTEMPTED MOVE BY SOME ELEMENTS IN THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION TO BLOCK THE PROMISED PL-480 FOOD SALES
DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR... THE U.S. IS TRYING TO
RETRACT FROM THE EARLIER PROMISE OF AT LEAST HALF A MILLION
TONS OF FOODGRAINS UNDER THE REVISED PL-480
PROGRAM WITH THE PLEA THAT INDIA SHOULD BE ABLE TO
MEET ITS BUFFER STOCK REQUIREMENTS FROM ITS OWN
BUMPER CROP THIS YEAR.

3. "THOUGH INDIA IS NOT OVTO BEG FOR THESE PL-480
SHIPMENTS, IT IS TAKING STEPS TO REBUT THIS
CONTENTION BY CLARIFYING THE POSITION THAT THE
BUFFER STOCKS THAT ARE BEING BUILT UP WITH IMPORTED
GRAIN, WHETHER ON CASH PAYMENT OR CONCESSIONAL
PURCHASES, ARE NOT INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT
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CURRENT CONSUMPTION. THESE STOCKS ARE MEANT ONLY AS

AN INSURANCE AGAINST POSSIBLE SHORTFALLS IN FOOD
PRODUCTION IN THE EVENT OF BAD MONSOONS IN THE
SUBSEQUENT SEASONS.

4. "SO IF THE U.S. CHOOSES TO GO BACK ON ITS EARLIER
PROMISES, INDIA WILL NATURALLY TAKE IT AS PART OF
A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO STEP UP THE POLITICAL
PRESSURES ON THIS COUNTRY IN THE WAKE OF THE LATEST
STRAINS IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BUT THE GENERAL
ECONOMIC SITUATION NOW IS COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO PAY
FOR THESE HALF A MILLION TONS FROM ITS OWN FREE FOREIGN
EXCHANGE, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE FOR IT IN THE LIGHT OF
THE INDIAN CLARIFICATIONS."SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PL 480 TITLE 1, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE03847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760096-1074
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760360/aaaacaym.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON TITLE I ASSISTANCE TO INDIA
TAGS: EAID, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006